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LETTER DATED 28 JUNE 1994 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward herewith a statement by the United States of America as one of the donors of humanitarian assistance to Angola.

I should be grateful if you could kindly arrange to have the statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Edward W. GNEHM
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the United States of America
to the United Nations

Annex

Statement by the United States of America dated 27 June 1994 on humanitarian assistance to Angola

Recent fighting in Kuito and Malanje, the bombing of Huambo, and the attack on 21 June on a World Food Programme convoy are tragic signs that the civil war in Angola is again overshadowing hopes for peace. Also disturbing are reports that relief workers in Huambo and Malanje have been denied the freedom to leave those embattled cities. The renewed violence is visiting death and destruction on the lives of innocent Angolans daily. Humanitarian assistance, the lifeline for over 3 million desperate Angolans, is now blocked throughout most of the nation. Angola's people are more than ever a nation at risk.

As major donors of humanitarian assistance to Angola, we condemn these developments and those Angolan leaders who attempt to influence the peace process by seeking advantage on the battlefield. We reserve our harshest criticism for those who spend enormous sums of money on weapons of destruction while wilfully neglecting the urgent needs of the people. Their eagerness to pursue war and thrust their humanitarian responsibilities and the enormous financial cost of supporting the relief efforts onto the shoulders of the international community is intolerable.

There is no future in Angola without peace, and the negotiations in Lusaka offer the only path to achieving this. The Government of Angola recently accepted the proposals of the mediation on national reconciliation; we call upon the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to do likewise and allow the negotiations to conclude in a comprehensive settlement. During this critical phase in the negotiations, both the Government of Angola and UNITA should devote their full energies to reaching an accord on an urgent basis. Any other course of action will only increase the suffering of the people of Angola and lead us to question whether Angola's leaders are truly interested in peace.